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WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT  
HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT AND  
WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health  
and Sanitary Inspectors of  
the Districts

for the Year

1952



## **The Chairman and Members of the Welwyn Garden City Urban, Hatfield Rural and Welwyn Rural Districts**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your districts for the year 1952. While the report deals mainly with the environmental health services, a brief account of the related personal health services of the County Council has been included in order to give a comprehensive picture of the development and co-ordination of the work of the Health Departments.

The health of the districts was satisfactory during the year, although the early onset of a cold wet winter led to an increase in sickness from respiratory infections towards the close of the year. Examination of the health statistics show that the general death rates compare favourably with previous years, and the corresponding figures for the country as a whole. The birth rates are now tending to stabilise after falling from the high rates in the immediate post-war years, while the infant mortality rates remain low.

Notifications of infectious disease were low apart from an increase in measles during the last quarter. Scarlet fever and other streptococcal infections have continued to decline both in number and severity of the illness. I am also glad to report another year of complete freedom from diphtheria in the districts due to the continued efforts of all concerned in the immunisation campaign. The introduction of whooping cough immunisation following improvement in the preparation of proprietary vaccines is worthy of note although it will be some years before the full results can be assessed.

During 1952 the post-war New Town Development at Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield became for the first time a noticeable feature of the area. Seen in conjunction with the progress made in the housing schemes of both Councils the increasing pace of these widespread urbanising changes becomes apparent. It is hoped that the provision of local shopping facilities with educational and social sub-centres will be given due priority side by side with the development of housing schemes.

In the sphere of health education special emphasis has again been given to clean food production. There is a growing awareness of the importance of this preventive work by the managements and staffs of catering premises who have assisted the work of the Health Departments by encouraging their employees to attend courses of lectures, and granting facilities for lectures on their premises. The absence of any major outbreak of food-borne disease during the year may be attributed in no small degree to the greater care taken by food handlers in observing simple rules of cleanliness.

I must again express my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance given by the Clerks and other officers of the three District Councils, and the Sanitary Inspectors who have at all times helped me by carrying out much detailed work in addition to their routine duties. Mr C. B. Borthwick, Surveyor, Water Engineer and Sanitary Inspector at Welwyn retired shortly after the end of the year upon completing twenty-six years' service with the Council. His intimate knowledge of the district, wise counsels and wide interests have always proved of the greatest value.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. TAYLOR,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*July 1953.*

WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

*Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health and of the  
Sanitary Inspector for 1952*

## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS**

### *Medical Officer of Health:*

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

### *Senior Sanitary Inspector:*

M. STOCKDALE, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

### *Additional Sanitary Inspector:*

F. W. T. FOWLER, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

### *Rodent Operative:*

E. J. THOMAS.

### *Clerks:*

Mrs. E. R. GEORGE.

A. A. W. CALLABY.



# **Section A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA**

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	4,310
Population (mid-year 1952, as estimated by the Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	19,190
Number of inhabited houses 31st December, 1952	...	...	...	...	5,748
Rateable value of the District, 31st December, 1952	...	...	...	...	£176,098
Net product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£706

A modern industrial and residential centre now entering upon its second and final stage of development as the second planned Garden City in Hertfordshire. There are large factories engaged in the manufacture of foodstuffs, grinding wheels, radio sets, pharmaceutical products, heavy engineering, plastics, and cigarettes, with many smaller firms engaged in a wide variety of manufacture.

## **EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR**

			Male	Female	Total
Deaths from all causes	...	...	54	73	127
Live Births	{ Legitimate	...	159	153	312
	{ Illegitimate	...	5	8	13
Still Births	{ Legitimate	...	1	1	2
	{ Illegitimate	...	1	—	1
Deaths of infants	{ Legitimate	...	3	2	5
under one year	{ Illegitimate	...	—	—	—

### **INFANT MORTALITY**

Five infants under one year of age died during the year. On careful consideration of the circumstances in each case, three of these deaths may be classed as unavoidable, being due to prematurity or a degenerative condition, while the other two are in the class of preventable disease.

Male	14 hours	Prematurity
Female	3 months	Prematurity
Male	3 months	Prematurity
Male	6 months	Congenital abnormality, enlarged thymus
Female	6 months	Marasmus, cerebral degeneration

### **MATERNAL MORTALITY**

Once again it is gratifying to report that there were no maternal deaths during the year. This reflects the high standard of hospital and domiciliary midwifery in the town.

### *Comparison of Annual Rates*

The following table shows the Death Rates, Birth Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1946.

Year	Death Rate per 1,000 pop.	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop.	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
1946	6.4 (11.5)*	24.2 (19.1)*	28.1 (43)*
1947	7.5 (12)	22.1 (20.5)	19.3 (41)
1948	6.6 (10.8)	21.0 (17.9)	23.7 (34)
1949	6.8 (11.7)	17.4 (16.7)	12.6 (32)
1950	6.8 (11.6)	14.3 (15.8)	19.1 (30)
1951	9.0 (12.5)	17.4 (15.5)	37.5 (30)
1952	6.5 (11.3)	16.9 (15.3)	15.3 (27.6)

\* The relative figures for England and Wales.

## DEATHS

No adverse factors significantly affected the mortality rate for the year. The early onset of a cold damp winter gave rise to widespread upper respiratory tract infection in the late autumn, but had no effect on the mortality returns.

The following table gives an analysis of the causes of all deaths which have occurred—or are required to be treated as having occurred in the town during the year.

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	—	1	1
Cancer, malignant disease ...	9	20	29
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis ...	4	13	17
Heart Diseases ...	14	17	31
Other circulatory diseases ...	2	10	12
Pneumonia ...	5	—	5
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	4	4	8
Nephritis ...	2	—	2
Gastric Ulcer ...	3	—	3
Road Traffic accidents ...	3	—	3
Suicide ...	1	1	2
Diabetes ...	—	1	1
Other defined causes ...	7	6	13
	54	73	127

Analysis of the deaths from cancer according to site of origin.

Respiratory tract ...	7
Alimentary tract and liver ...	12
Breast ...	4
Uterus ...	3
Others ...	3

## Section B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The County Council is responsible for the administration of the personal health services in the town, embracing maternity and child welfare, school health service, health visiting, home nursing and the home help service. Reference should be made to the Annual Reports of



the County Medical Officer and the School Medical Officer for 1952, for detailed information on the development of these services.

At the end of the year the Divisional Health Office was transferred to "The Breaks", French Horn Lane, Hatfield. Telephone: Hatfield 3054.

## CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

### *Community Centre, Mill Green Road*

Ante and Post Natal sessions	...	1st and 3rd Fridays, 2-3 p.m.
Toddlers' sessions	... ..	1st and 3rd Fridays, 3-4 p.m.
Infant Welfare sessions	...	Monday, 2-4 p.m.; Tuesday, 2-4 p.m.; Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.
School Health sessions	...	Minor Ailment Clinic, daily 9 a.m. (Doctor attends Monday, 9.30 a.m.- 12 noon.)
Dental and Orthodontic sessions		Dental, Tuesday a.m. and p.m. Dental, Wednesday a.m. and p.m. (A special Orthodontic session held Monday p.m. monthly.)
Ophthalmic sessions	... ..	1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings, 9 a.m.-12 noon.
Speech Therapy sessions	...	Friday, 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. 2.30 p.m.-4.30 p.m.

### *Lawrence Hall, Applecroft Road*

Infant Welfare sessions	...	Wednesday, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. (Doctors' session.)
Child Development sessions	...	1st and 3rd Wednesday, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

## MIDWIFERY SERVICES

The Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital at Peartree continues to maintain a very high standard of midwifery in the town, the hospital being recognised as a Part II Training Centre for midwives.

Specialist advice and treatment are readily available at the hospital for difficult or complicated maternity cases, and regular ante-natal and post-natal sessions are held both for women who are subsequently entering hospital for delivery, and those who are referred back to their own doctor for continued ante-natal supervision before delivery. A full-time midwife is employed by the Hertfordshire County Council for the town, and the weekly ante-natal and post-natal session is held at the Community Centre for the supervision of domiciliary midwifery cases. In addition to these facilities the Applecroft Nursing Home on the west side of the town is also mainly engaged with maternity cases.

## NURSING SERVICES

The nursing staff at present comprises three Health Visitors, three Home Nurses, and one Midwife under the control of the Divisional Nursing Officer. In addition to their clinic duties, the nurses provide a complete Health Visiting and Domiciliary Nursing Service for general and maternity cases. Certain nurses undertake work in school at hygiene

inspections or routine medical examinations. Valuable assistance is rendered at the clinics by teams of voluntary helpers who keep the registers, weigh and measure the children, sell proprietary infant foods and vitamin preparations, and generally release the doctor and health visitor for more specialised duties.

#### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The medical inspection of children in maintained schools in the prescribed age groups, namely 5, 11 and 14 years, and in addition the 8 year old group was completed during the year. Reference should be made to the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer on the School Health Service, 1952, for detailed information. It is however reassuring to report that the School Dental Service has continued fully manned throughout the area, so that the dental supervision of the younger school children is once more being adequately maintained.

#### IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

It is now agreed policy to press for primary vaccination against smallpox of all children under the age of two years, and at ages above this when the child has been, or is likely to be exposed to smallpox. In a healthy infant primary vaccination is best done at the age of three or four months.

The need for diphtheria immunisation continues to be as great as ever although the complete absence of notification of the disease may tend to lull parents into a false sense of security. It is gratifying to record however that parents still seem aware of their responsibilities in this matter and returns from medical practitioners and clinics show that the general level of acceptance is satisfactory.

Following improvement in the preparation of proprietary vaccines for the prevention of whooping cough, immunisation against this disease is now available through the family practitioners or clinics for infants and young children up to five years of age. While it is difficult to give an accurate estimate of the efficacy of these vaccines in preventing whooping cough, recent trials suggest that they will be of considerable value both in preventing and in reducing the severity of the attacks.

#### HOME HELP SERVICE

The demands on this service have remained steady throughout the year, approximately 30-40 households receiving domestic help each week.

The local organiser is Mrs. E. R. Dawson, Lawrence Hall, Applecroft Road, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 4144) to which address the Home Help Office was removed following the withdrawal of the Divisional Health Office from Howardsgate.

The Home Help Service is one of the ways in which the present heavy burden on hospital accommodation can be relieved, and there is a close link between this service and the domiciliary midwifery and nursing services.

#### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The service is administered from County Hall for the County as a whole. The duly Authorised Officer under the Mental Treatment Acts



for this area is Mr. C. A. English, 3 Wellfield Road, Hatfield (Telephone: Hatfield 2239) who is also Divisional Welfare Officer. Several mentally defective children attend the Occupation Centres at St. Albans and Hertford.

#### DAY NURSERIES

There are two Day Nurseries in Welwyn Garden City.

- (i) Woodhall Lane: Matron, Mrs. B. Squires (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 3692) with 40 places.
- (ii) Church Road: Matron, Mrs. M. Staten (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 3691) with 52 places.

Priorities for admission:

- (1) Children of Widows or Widowers.
- (2) Children of Unmarried Mothers.
- (3) Children of deserted Wives or Husbands.
- (4) Children of Parents if in Prison.
- (5) Children of Parents suffering from chronic illness or disablement, i.e., mental illness, tuberculosis, etc.
- (6) Temporary Cases, e.g., Mother's illness or confinement.
- (7) Children recommended by Doctor or Health Visitor for temporary help, i.e., children from problem families, emotional difficulties and bad housing conditions.

#### AMBULANCE SERVICE

Two ambulances of the County Ambulance Brigade are attached to the Welwyn Garden City Station and, operating in conjunction with the Fire Brigade, maintain a 24-hour cover and deal with approximately 2,000 calls annually. Both vehicles are equipped with short-wave radio to conform with the County's Radio Control Scheme and can be mobilised by transmitter stations in St. Albans and Hertford. The value of this communication link with ambulances has already been demonstrated in certain serious road accident cases, where it was possible to intercept vehicles engaged on less important removals and deploy them with the minimum of delay to the scene of these accidents.

Training of ambulance personnel in first-aid work is conducted at station level as a part of the conditions of a man's employment in the service, but in addition certain members follow the St. John Ambulance organisation is a voluntary capacity.

The Hospital Car Service, under the direction of the County Council, continues to play an important part in the transport of hospital treatment cases.

#### OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

Increasing interest is being taken in the welfare of old people in the town. The Women's Voluntary Service assists the activities of the Old People's Club at the Community Centre each Monday afternoon in arranging home visits, special trips for the elderly and the mobile meals service. The Churches, Rotary Club and other organisations also give valuable assistance in this work. There is a close link between the voluntary workers and the Health Visitors and Home Nurses in this sphere.

## HOSPITAL FACILITIES

The hospital and specialist services for the town are administered by the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. In addition to the Cottage Hospital with 17–20 beds, and the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital at Peartree, the town is served by the several large hospitals in the surrounding towns, where full specialist and diagnostic facilities are readily available.

Cases of infectious disease in need of hospital treatment or isolation are usually transferred in the first place to St. Stephen's ward of the St. Albans City Hospital. The Hertford Isolation Hospital and Spittlesea Hospital, Luton, are also available for these cases.

## GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is the body responsible for providing the general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. The Clerk of the Council (Mr. A. E. Short) has his offices at 14 Fore Street, Hertford.

## FAMILY PLANNING

There is an active branch of the Family Planning Association in Welwyn Garden City, holding clinics at the Community Centre, Mill Green Road. Sessions are held on Mondays 6.30 p.m.–8.30 p.m., and Thursdays 1.30 p.m.–3 p.m., for advice on birth control, and on Fridays 9.30 a.m.–11.30 a.m. for advice on childlessness. The sub-fertility clinic on Friday is by appointment only and patients must be referred through their own private doctor. The Family Planning Association is a voluntary body and small charges are made to the patients to cover expenses. Enquiries are welcomed and should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. L. L. Bowmer, 14 Beehive Lane, Welwyn Garden City.

## MARRIAGE GUIDANCE

The Welwyn Garden City Marriage Guidance Council, Hon. Secretary: Mrs. E. M. Harrison, 28 Elmwood, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 3507) has continued to extend its activities throughout the year, both in an educational sphere to young married couples, and in an advisory capacity by an experienced group of counsellors to whom cases of special difficulty are referred for expert advice and guidance.

## MORTUARY

Modern mortuary premises are maintained by the Urban District Council, adjacent to the Council Offices.

## LABORATORY

The laboratory of Hill End Hospital, St. Albans undertakes the examination of milk and other specimens required by medical practitioners and the Public Health Department. Larger scale facilities on an epidemiological basis, and for the examination of ice cream samples are available at the Regional Public Health Laboratory, Luton. During the year sixteen specimens were submitted for examination, and one hundred and one milk samples. Supplies of diphtheria immunisation material, diphtheria anti-toxin and measles immune globulins are available to practitioners in the town on request, although the demand for the last two



items has been negligible. The Health Department is also used as a centre to which practitioners may bring in specimens or materials requiring examination.

**Section C—INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	16
Whooping Cough	...	...	64
Measles	...	...	103
Erysipelas	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	6
Food Poisoning	...	...	1
Poliomyelitis	...	...	3

**MEASLES**

Notifications rose during the last quarter of the year. The cases were scattered throughout all districts of the town and were mainly mild in character.

**SCARLET FEVER**

No outbreaks of scarlet fever occurred throughout the area, the total notifications being low and due to sporadic mild cases. The home was visited in each case by the Sanitary Inspector upon notification to ensure that essential practical precautions against the spread of infection were being taken, and to offer terminal disinfection at the end of the infective period.

**WHOOPING COUGH**

Of the total of 64 cases, the majority occurred during the third quarter of the year. The ages of the children affected were:—

0–1 years, 3 cases; 1–3 years, 15 cases; 3–5 years, 18 cases and above 5 years, 28 cases.

**POLIOMYELITIS**

Three paralytic cases occurred during the last quarter of the year, a young child aged 1 year 5 months, a boy of 8 years and a young man of 25 years. Full investigation of the circumstances failed to disclose any connection between the cases or contacts of cases outside the district. The two children were mild cases with no permanent muscle weakness, while the third case with weakness of the legs and back improved considerably with full physiotherapy treatment.

**FOOD POISONING**

The supervision of industrial canteens, cafes, restaurants, food manufacturing premises and school canteens in the town has been carefully maintained throughout the year. No outbreaks of food poisoning came to the notice of the Health Department, and only one mild case of sonne dysentery in a girl required investigation.

## DIPHTHERIA

It is very gratifying to be able to report a year of complete absence from diphtheria in this town. It is now over five years since a case of diphtheria occurred owing to the satisfactory level of immunisation maintained in the infants and young children.

## TUBERCULOSIS

The register has been carefully checked and brought up to date at the end of the year by comparison with the records held by the Chest Physicians and the County Medical Officer. The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1952 no longer require a Medical Officer of Health to keep a register of tuberculosis notifications as these particulars have in practice come to be derived from the records maintained at Chest Clinics. This is in accordance with the present structure and operation of the tuberculosis services, so that the tuberculosis register is now maintained in identical manner as the records of notifications of other notifiable diseases and is no longer a statutory obligation of the Medical Officer of Health.

The statistics for the year show little change in the total number of tuberculous persons in the town. Ten of the thirty-four cases added to the register during the year were transfers into the town, a figure which compares favourably with transfers into neighbouring Urban and Rural Districts.

	Male		Female		Total
	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	
On register at 31st December, 1951	82	19	50	11	162
Removals from register during the year ... ..	16	5	4	7	32
Added to register during the year ...	16	1	15	2	34
Cases on the register at 31st December, 1952 ... ..	82	15	61	6	164

The Tuberculosis Clinic at Osterhills Hospital, St. Albans, undertakes the diagnosis and supervision of all cases in this area, the Chest Physician attending on Monday mornings for the examination of patients from Welwyn Garden City. Following diagnosis a home visit is made by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor attached to the Chest Clinic and a report is sent to the Medical Officer of Health who is thus aware of the home circumstances of each case brought on to the register. In order to ensure full consideration of the special housing needs of tuberculous persons, each case is specially revised where necessary by the Housing Committee upon a detailed report from the Medical Officer of Health.

The accommodation for hospital and sanatorium treatment for active tuberculosis cases compares very favourably with most areas so that the number of active cases remaining in their homes in a highly infective state, in close contact with other members of the family and young children is kept to the minimum. In this there is close co-operation between the chest physicians, hospital almoners, Medical Officer of Health and the Housing Department.

B.C.G. vaccination of infants and children in close contact with open



cases of tuberculosis in the home is now an established procedure which enhances the resistance of the children to tuberculosis. Introduced in 1951 it will however be several years before the full effect of this simple practical preventive measure on the attack rate is apparent.

### HOUSING

Much time has been devoted to interviewing applicants for special priority for rehousing on medical grounds, visits to the home, and assessment with the Housing Manager for presentation to the Housing Committee. In these cases it is difficult to lay down hard and fast rules regarding priorities to be allocated, and the Committee consider each one upon its own merits after full consideration of the recommendations of the Medical Officer of Health and Housing Manager. While high priority is given to cases of tuberculosis and other infectious conditions, the practical and emotional difficulties resulting from minor degrees of overcrowding with two or three families in the one house come before the Department each week, many of whom have little chance of early rehousing as they are relatively new additions to the housing list. The Housing Manager has kindly given the following statistical information:

	1st December, 1952 (including 150 temporary bungalows, plus 26 cottages)
(a) Number of houses owned by the Council ...	1987
(b) Number of families housed in requisitioned accommodation ... ..	1
(c) Number of families housed in temporary huts	5
(d) Number of families housed during the year:	
(i) New accommodation ... ..	84
(ii) Old accommodation ... ..	84
(e) Number of applicants on the housing lists ...	1266

The general layout, design and construction of the new houses on the Council's housing scheme on the East side of the town are of the highest standard and the good progress made during the year is shown by the increase in the number of families rehoused in new accommodation.

Resulting from the increased rate of completion of new houses the Council decided during the year to release the majority of requisitioned properties, and to commence the withdrawal of families from the temporary huts in Lemsford Lane.

Considerable progress was achieved by the New Town Development Corporation during the year, a total of 414 houses being completed by the end of the year with a further 424 under construction. In the Cole Green Lane area rapid progress was also made in the preliminary development work, e.g. laying of sewers, road construction and the clearing of building sites.

Acknowledgement is due to the Housing Department of the Development Corporation who have given considerable assistance by arranging transfers within their properties upon medical recommendations.

**Section D—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

**1. WATER SUPPLY**

The Water Undertaking is owned and operated by the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council.

The supply is obtained from deep bore-holes in the chalk formation in the valley of the River Mimram where the Pumping Station is situated. The electrification of the Pumping Station is now completed. Six electrically driven pumps raise the water from six bore-holes to reservoirs on the Sherrardswood ridge, which provide a storage capacity of 3,000,000 gallons for the town supply. From the same station, the Council pump water in bulk to the towers and reservoirs of the Welwyn Rural District Council and part of the Rural District of Hertford.

During 1952 the water supply of the town has been entirely satisfactory both in quantity and in chemical and bacteriological quality. The supply is chlorinated at the Pumping Station before distribution.

Water samples are obtained at regular intervals, and a total of seventeen samples were obtained during the year and submitted for examination; all were found to be of satisfactory quality.

*Details of type of Supply*

Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the population supplied from public mains are as follows:—

				Dwelling-houses	Population
(a) Direct to houses	...	...	...	5,748	19,160
(b) By means of stand-pipes	...	...	...	5	15

**2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

The town is sewered on the separate system. Surface water is drained to the valleys of the Lea and Mimram rivers, which bound the district on the south and north respectively. Foul water is gathered by tributary sewers to the main trunk sewer which traverses the town from south-west to north-east, and discharges into sewage disposal works in the north-east corner of the district.

The system of disposal consists of detritus tanks, screens, continuous-flow settlement tanks, dosing tanks and percolating filters fed through revolving sprinklers. The effluent discharges into the River Mimram first passing through a lagoon. The sludge is banked on to adjacent land and ploughed in.

*Rivers and Streams*

A portion of the River Mimram, half mile (approximately) runs through the northern portion of the district and a portion of the Lea, half mile (approximately) runs through the south portion of the district.

**3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION**

The closet accommodation is on the water carriage system with the exception of those cottages (rural in character) on the outskirts of the district, where the pail system is in operation, and where the occupants arrange to bury the contents in their gardens.



(a) Number of pail closets abolished; water closets installed and connected to a water carriage system during recent years ... ..	38
(b) Approximate number of pail closets remaining at the end of 1952 ... ..	48

Of the forty-eight houses stated as having pail closets, eighteen are the subject of demolition orders. The increase in the number of pail closets has been brought about by the Rural areas transferred to the town in October, 1951.

#### 4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

##### (a) *Refuse Collection and Disposal*

All premises have metal dustbins for the deposit of refuse. The prohibition of the sale of galvanised iron dustbins for the reception of refuse which was caused by rearmament has now been lifted. The provision of galvanised iron dustbins is therefore again enforced under Section 64 of the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council Act 1932. Refuse is collected weekly in covered motor vehicles by the Council's Refuse Collection Service.

Domestic refuse is tipped at a dump near Stanborough Lane and is disposed of by controlled tipping. Such rats as may gain access to the dump or its surroundings are destroyed by the Public Health Department.

##### (b) *Street Cleansing*

This is controlled by the Surveyor.

##### (c) *Gully Cleansing*

All gullies for which the Council are responsible are regularly emptied and flushed by Contract Gully Cleansing, Ltd., who are employed by the Council under contract for this purpose.

##### (d) *Dustbins*

The Council's Refuse Collection Service notifies the Public Health Department of any defective dustbins they find. Seventy-eight new bins were provided during the year on owners being requested to do so. Details are as follows :—

Urban District Council ... ..	40
Development Corporation ... ..	14
Private Owners ... ..	20
Other Owners ... ..	4

#### 5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

##### (a) Number and nature of Inspections made during the year :—

Inspections of Factories (with mechanical power) ... ..	117
„ Factories (without mechanical power) ... ..	13
„ Workplaces ... ..	19
„ Dairies ... ..	22
„ Licensed Premises ... ..	13
„ Infested Premises (rats and mice) ... ..	5268
„ Shops ... ..	152

Inspections re Insect Pests (excluding bed bugs) the year:—	199
„ of Dwellings (not otherwise included)...	296
„ Schools ... ..	11
Number of Premises treated for Bed Bugs ... ..	3
Inspections of Dwelling-houses under H.A., 1936 ... ..	36
Special Inspections or Visits made re :—	
Drainage ... ..	105
Infectious Disease ... ..	54
Smoke observations ... ..	50
Water Supply ... ..	32
Milk Samples ... ..	51
Dustbins ... ..	181
Accumulations of refuse ... ..	87
Council Property ... ..	41
Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	116
(b) (1) Number of Informal Notices served ... ..	129
(2) Number of Statutory Notices served ... ..	0
(c) (1) Number of Informal Notices :	
120 were complied with and 9 were outstanding.	

#### 6. (a) SHOPS

There are forty-one shops in the district. One hundred and fifty-two inspections of shops have been made.

Plans of new shops are examined by the Health Department before they are approved, and representations made to the proposers where it appears that either the plans do not conform with the Public Health Act, 1936, or that structural alterations would be necessary on the shop becoming occupied, because the shops did not comply with the Shops Act.

The following action, under the Public Health Act, 1946, or the Shops Act, 1950, was taken :—

Want of Cleanliness ... ..	18	18
Sanitary Defects ... ..	13	12
Other Nuisances or Defects ... ..	18	14

Five defects were outstanding at the end of the year.

#### (b) OFFICES

All offices in the district are of modern construction and have a high standard of fitness. Separate sanitary conveniences are provided in all cases where both sexes are employed. The conditions found regarding ventilation, lighting and cleanliness are satisfactory. Basement rooms are not used for clerical employment. All buildings in the town with few exceptions are constructed without basements.

#### 7. CAMPING SITES

There are five occupied caravans which are being controlled under Town Planning procedure.

#### 8. SMOKE ABATEMENT

Smoke observations made ... ..	50
Smoke nuisances ... ..	4



In each case where smoke was produced so as to be a nuisance, the factories concerned took steps to avoid repetition of the nuisance.

It appears that the atmosphere of Welwyn Garden City is comparatively unpolluted. This may be attributed to the high consumption of electricity. Practically every house is wired for electricity, and domestic consumption in the town is believed to be higher than anywhere else in the country. Factories are wired for electricity, which in all instances provides the motive power. Steam boilers or furnaces are used for heating or trade processes only.

## 9. SWIMMING POOL

(1) The Lea Valley Open Air Swimming Pool is administered by the Council.

The considerable improvements carried out by the Council prior to the 1950 season, which included the provision of a continuous system of chlorination and filtration, have continued to prove their worth. In spite of heavy bathing loads the pool water was found to be clear and bright and of satisfactory cleanliness, whereas previously its cleanliness had been a matter of concern from the public health aspect.

Frequent tests are made with the Lovibond Comparator to ascertain if the amount of free chlorine present is adequate; this test gives an immediate result.

(2) During the year four samples of water were obtained from the pool and were submitted for bacteriological examination. The laboratory reports indicated that three samples were of a high standard. One sample tested at the pool with the Lovibond Comparator indicated insufficient residual chlorine. The Laboratory reported that the sample, whilst generally satisfactory, had a high bacterial count and recommended a sufficient residuum of chlorine to prevent this. Action was taken to comply with the recommendation of the Laboratory.

## 10. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Three houses were found to be infested during the year. The infestation was cleared by the application of Zaldecide-D.D.T. With the use of insecticides containing D.D.T., the bed bug should become extinct.

# Section E—HOUSING

## 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	127
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	251
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	3
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	6
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... ..	0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	102

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... .. 102

3. No action was taken under Statutory Powers during the year.

**Section F—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

(a) MILK

(1) *General*

There are five milk distributors registered, of whom only two occupy premises in the area. The major part of the milk sold is produced outside the district.

(2) *Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations*

During the year twenty-two inspections were made at dairies. Nine infringements of the Milk and Dairies Regulations were found. Informal notices were sent to the dealers concerned and complied with by them.

(3) *Biological Examinations*

The County Council obtains samples from Tuberculin Tested, accredited and non-designated herds and has them examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus. One bulk sample so examined was found to contain the latter. The supply in question was being pasteurised before distribution to the public and no danger to health therefore, arose. It is estimated that over 90 per cent. of the milk sold in the Garden City has been pasteurised before being retailed. Tests of milk in that category obtained from local retailers and examined by the Phosphatase test resulted in seventy-three out of seventy-six samples passing the test. This indicates that seventy-three samples were virtually free from pathogenic organisms.

(4) *Milk Sampling*

Samples of milk are regularly obtained at least once a month. The majority are taken on the public highway from retailers who are delivering milk to the public. This practice enables the cleanliness of milk as delivered to the public to be ascertained. One hundred and one samples were obtained and delivered to Hill End Hospital for bacteriological examination. The results which follow indicate that the Garden City milk supply is clean and safe.

*Tuberculin Tested Milk*

Of the thirteen samples obtained, all passed the Methylene Blue test.

*Pasteurised Milk*

Fifty samples were obtained and submitted for examination by the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests. Of the fifty Methylene Blue tests carried out, eleven were void due to the atmospheric shade temperature



exceeding 65° F., the other 39 tests were satisfactory. Of the fifty Phosphatase tests carried out, results showed that two samples failed to pass this test.

*Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk*

Twenty-six samples were obtained and submitted for examination by the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests. Of the twenty-six Methylene Blue tests carried out, five were void due to the atmospheric shade temperature exceeding 65° F. during the test, the other twenty-one tests were satisfactory. Of the twenty-six Phosphatase tests carried out, twenty-five samples passed the tests.

*Sterilised Milk*

The twelve samples obtained passed the Turbidity test.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no slaughter houses in the district. The system of inspection operated in the district consists of the inspection of premises selling meat and other foods or products. Additional detail is given under the headings Milk Supply, Ice Cream and Clean Food.

A number of meat and other perishable food vendors' vehicles come into the district: these are inspected at intervals.

(c) CONDEMNATION OF FOOD

The food listed was inspected and condemned during the year; the total being 3,606 pounds.

(1) <i>Uncooked Food</i>									lbs.
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	342
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	394
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	326
(2) <i>Food in Tins</i>									
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	957
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	497
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
(3) <i>Miscellaneous Food</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	969

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of Food are carried out at :—

- (1) Hill End Laboratory, Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, Herts.
- (2) Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.
- (3) Public Analyst, 17 Gt. Tower Street, London, E.C.3.
- (4) Public Health Laboratory, Town Hall, Luton.

(d) ADULTERATION

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, regarding adulteration are administered by the County Council.

A total of thirty samples of food were obtained in the town by their Divisional Inspector and on analysis were found to be genuine.

The foods sampled were:—

Milk (including T.T., Channel Island and Pasteurised) ...	...	18
Beef Sausages ...	...	3
Pork Sausages ...	...	1
Luncheon Sausage ...	...	1
Fish Cakes ...	...	2
Self-raising Flour ...	...	1
Ground Rice ...	...	1
White Pepper ...	...	1
Veal and Ham Loaf ...	...	1
Fish Paste ...	...	1

#### (e) CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

##### (1) *Propaganda*

The education of the individual employee in the great importance of clean food handling has continued. Lecture demonstrations illustrated by films have been given to the staffs of the school meal service, the three largest factory canteens and the largest restaurant in the town. A wall display set on the prevention of food poisoning was shown at the Public Library and selected pamphlets were distributed to canteen workers and housewives.

The routine inspection of all types of food preparing and retailing premises has continued. In addition to the lectures given to canteens and restaurant staffs the need for increased care in handling and preparing food has been brought to the attention of the management on every available opportunity. By such methods it is hoped that the staff handling the food will be kept under closer supervision than is possible by occasional official visits.

##### (2) *Premises Inspected*

The following inspections and visits have been made:—

Canteens ...	...	43
Cafes and Restaurants ...	...	52
Food Manufacturing Premises ...	...	18
Food Shops ...	...	93
Mobile vehicles selling food ...	...	13
Bakehouses ...	...	23

These figures are exclusive of visits paid to premises regarding the distribution of ice cream, which appear separately. Where contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Council's Clean Food Byelaws have been noted during these inspections informal action has been taken to effect improvements. Forty-one informal notices have been served upon the occupiers of the premises concerned. Matters referred to therein have either been attended to or are receiving attention.

(f) ICE CREAM AND ICED LOLLIES

(1) Ice Cream

The routine sampling of ice cream has been continued on a similar basis as last year, the emphasis being placed on the detection of possible contamination by the retailer. Where an unsatisfactory result was obtained investigations were carried out at the retailers and “follow up” samples were obtained where necessary. In every case these were placed in Provisional Grades 1 or 2. Throughout the year no retailer had more than one unsatisfactory sample.

Fifty-one samples of ice cream were obtained from twenty-two different retailers. The following table shows the grading into which the various types of ice cream were placed.

Type of ice cream	Satisfactory			Unsatisfactory	
	1	Provisional Grade 2	3	4	Un-graded
Wrapped other than choc bars ... ..	3	5	1	—	—
Wrapped choc bars ...	3	2	2	—	—
Partly wrapped ... ..	4	6	1	—	—
Part of previously opened wrapped brick ... ..	2	3	—	—	1
Part of bulk supply ...	10	6	1	1	—
Total Samples ...	22	22	5	1	1

Percentage Results : 43·14% 43·14% 9·8% 1·96% 1·96%

Conclusions

86·28 per cent. of the samples obtained were placed in Provisional Grades 1 or 2, reaching a satisfactory bacteriological standard.

Seven samples, comprising 13·72 per cent. of the total, were found to be of a low bacteriological standard. Of these 5 were placed in Provisional Grade 3, 1 in Provisional Grade 4 and 1 was not submitted to the Provisional Methylene Blue Test.

In general, ice cream sold in the district may be regarded as being of a reasonably satisfactory bacteriological standard.

2. ICED LOLLIES

(a) Fruit lollies

During the year 22 samples of iced fruit lollies were obtained and submitted to the coliform test by the Regional Public Health Laboratory at Luton. All but one of these samples were of lollies wrapped in cellophane bags by the Producer. The following table summarises the results under the various Producers:—



Producer	No. of Samples obtained	No. free from Coliforms	No. with Presumptive Coli only
A	1	—	1
B	2	2	—
C	2	2	—
D	1	1	—
E	1	1	—
F	2	2	—
G	13	8	5
Total	22	16	6

(b) *Cream lollies*

Nineteen samples of ice cream or “milky” lollies were obtained and were similarly examined. All but 5 from Producer G were wrapped in cellophane bags at the manufactory.

Producer	No. of Samples obtained	No. free from Coliforms	No. with Presumptive Coli only	No. containing both Presumptive and Faecal Coli
G	18	1	6	11
H	1	—	—	1
Total	19	1	6	12

In each case where a high faecal coli count was found the matter was referred to the retailer for action and where necessary stocks were voluntarily withdrawn from sale. The Producers were also advised of the unsatisfactory nature of their product and co-operated with the staff of the local Public Health Department in tracing and eradicating the source of the contamination.

*Conclusions*

All 22 samples of iced fruit lollies were found to be free from faecal coli; whereas 12 of the nineteen samples of ice cream lollies contained faecal coli.

It appears that little danger of severe bacteriological contamination exists in iced fruit lollies due to their high pH which usually falls between pH3 and pH5.

The ice cream lolly or “milky” lolly having a much lower pH, usually about pH7, gives more favourable conditions for bacteriological growth and is worthy of regular sampling by Public Health Departments.

It is interesting to note that the 5 fruit lollies from Producer G found to contain presumptive coli only have a lower pH, about pH6, than is normal in straightforward fruit lollies.

### 3. INSPECTION OF PREMISES

Sixty-five visits have been paid to premises where ice cream or iced lollies are sold, in addition to visits made solely for the procuring of



samples. Where necessary advice has been given on serving methods. In spite of these efforts 4 of the 7 unsatisfactory samples of ice cream were almost certainly traced to careless distribution by the retailer.

4. MOBILE VANS

Twelve inspections of the 4 mobile vans known to enter the district have been carried out. Two of these retailers sell a wrapped product only; two sell loose ice cream. All the iced lollies sold from mobile vans were enclosed in cellophane bags. A letter of warning was sent to one retailer concerning the lack of adequate facilities for selling loose ice cream. As a result wrapped ice cream only is now sold.

Section G—GENERAL, INCLUDING SUPERVISION OF FACTORIES AND RODENT CONTROL

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

				Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Premises				(2)	(3)	(4)
(1)						
FACTORIES	with	Mechanical				
Power	...	...	...	117	16	0
FACTORIES	without	Mechanical				
Power	...	...	...	13	1	0
OTHER PREMISES	under	the				
Act	...	...	...	27	1	0
Total				157	18	0

2. DEFECTS FOUND

			Number of Defects		Referred to H.M. Inspector	Number of offences in respect of which pro- secutions were instituted
Particulars			Found	Remedied		
(1)			(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):						
Insufficient	...	...	2	2	0	0
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	21	19	0	0
Not separate for sexes	...	...	0	0	0	0
Other offences	...	...	9	8	0	0
			32	29	Nil	Nil

3. FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(a) The occupiers of two local factories distribute work to nineteen out-workers in the town. These persons assemble or make up articles in their own homes.

In addition two local outworkers are employed by London firms. The outwork is carried on in clean and satisfactory premises. No cause for complaint has arisen during the year.

(b) *Factories—General Information*

All factories in the town are of modern construction and have been built during the past thirty years. Health conditions are generally satisfactory. Infringements are usually of a minor nature.

Plans for new factories or involving alteration of existing factories are submitted to the Public Health Department before they are approved.

The Council is empowered to reject the plans if they do not comply with section 37, 43 or 59 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Where the plans submitted do not comply, amendments are informally negotiated with the proposers. If agreement is not secured within the statutory period or the statutory period is insufficient to allow negotiation, the plans are rejected. Where there is no legal authority to reject the plans, but the erection or alteration contained in the plans is likely to give rise to contraventions of the Factories Act, 1937, the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, this is pointed out to the proposers.

4. RODENT CONTROL

(a) *Administration*

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. A full time Rodent Operative is employed.

(b) *Rodent Destruction*

Rats, mice or rats and mice were found on 281 premises and 5,141 visits were made to destroy them.

In addition 127 premises were surveyed to ascertain if rats or mice were present.

Details of the 281 infestations dealt with were as follows:—

	No. of Premises	No. of visits
Rats only ... ..	193	3,103
Mice only ... ..	70	1,393
Rats and Mice ... ..	18	645

Details of the various types of premises found infested were as follows:—

	Local Authority Property	Dwelling- Houses	Business & Industrial Premises
No. of Premises infested by Rats ... ..	5	151	37
No. of Premises infested by Mice ... ..	2	36	32
No. of Premises infested by Rats and Mice ... ..	3	1	14
Total ... ..	10	188	83

Dwelling-houses are treated free, but a charge has to be made for rodent destruction at Business and Industrial Premises.

Annual contracts for the destruction of rats and mice are entered into by the Council in respect of Business and Industrial Premises. The charge made depends on the size of and conditions at the premises concerned.

(c) *Sewers*

In November, 1952, a sewer treatment was commenced in the Council's sewers which convey foul water. Baits were laid in one hundred manholes which were selected to give a representative test over the whole town.

Subsequent inspection showed that none of the baits had been taken. This result indicates that the Council's sewers conveying foul water—of which there are about twenty-five miles—are free from rats. This is a very satisfactory result and is a consequence of modern sewers and rodent control measures undertaken in previous years.

5. INSECT PESTS

Two hundred and seven visits were made during the year to deal with one hundred and one cases of insect pests.

Five cases were not confirmed and six cases of woodworm were under treatment and observation at the end of the year.

The table gives an analysis of the work carried out at the ninety premises where measures of destruction were completed.

Pest				No. of premises affected	No. of visits made
Ants	...	...	...	34	79
Flies	...	...	...	2	2
Silver Fish	...	...	...	3	7
Hornets	...	...	...	2	2
Wasps	...	...	...	36	65
Bread Beetles	...	...	...	3	3
Bed Bugs	...	...	...	3	8
Bees	...	...	...	1	2
Woodworm	...	...	...	6	25
Total				90	193

6. SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT AFTER INTIMATION TO THE OWNER OR OCCUPIER

Nuisances and defects dealt with

*Premises*

Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Galvanised dustbins provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Damp houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective guttering	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dirty premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ceilings renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective fire grates	...	...	...	...	...	...	23



### *Drains*

Defective drains relaid...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Choked drains ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28

### *Closet Accommodation, etc.*

New W.C.s fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective W.C. seats	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective sink and bath waste pipes, traps, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
New accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Accommodation cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

### *General*

Premises infested by rats and/or mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	281
Insect infested premises (excluding bed bugs)	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Defective rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Paving repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous nuisances and repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Defective gullies and manholes	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

*Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health and of the  
Sanitary Inspector for 1952*

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

*Medical Officer of Health:*

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector:*

S. W. WRIGHT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

*District Sanitary Inspector:*

D. N. FAULKNER, M.S.I.A.

*Public Health Assistant and Rodent Operative:*

A. FLINTOFF

*Clerks:*

Mrs. G. M. SHERMAN

A. A. W. CALLABY



**Section A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF  
THE AREA**

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,899
Population (mid-year 1952, as estimated by the Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,550
Number of inhabited houses, 31st December, 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,780
Rateable value of the District, 31st December, 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	£194,319
Net product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£790

**SOCIAL CONDITIONS**

The Hatfield Rural District is mainly an agricultural and residential area extending from the middle of Hertfordshire to the borders of Middlesex and the northern perimeter of the Outer Metropolitan area. The Ancient Town of Hatfield, the administrative and social centre of the area, has several large and important industries, including the main works of the De Havilland Aircraft Company.

The first house completed by the Hatfield New Town Development Corporation was opened in April, 1951, since when development has proceeded rapidly in the Roe Green district. 219 houses and flats were completed by the end of 1952, with a further 450 under construction. The large County Technical College on an adjoining site was also completed at the end of the year.

**EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR**

			Male	Female	Total
Number of deaths from all causes	...	...	98	110	208
Number of live births	...	{ Legitimate ...	149	163	312
		{ Illegitimate ...	9	2	11
Number of still births	...	{ Legitimate ...	3	4	7
		{ Illegitimate ...	—	1	1
Number of deaths of infants	...	{ Legitimate ...	2	1	3
under one year	...	{ Illegitimate ...	—	1	1

**INFANT MORTALITY**

Four infants of under one year of age died during the year.

Male	...	...	1 hour	...	...	Prematurity
Female	...	...	1 day	...	...	Prematurity
Male	...	...	1 day	...	...	Congenital Heart Defect
Female	...	...	1 week	...	...	Prematurity

**MATERNAL MORTALITY**

Once again it is gratifying to report that there were no maternal deaths during the year. This reflects the high standard of hospital and domiciliary midwifery in the area.

*Comparison of Annual Rates*

The following table shows the Death Rates, Birth Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1946.

Year	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
1946	9.2 (11.5)*	19.0 (19.1)*	24.6 (43.0)*
1947	8.9 (12.0)	19.8 (20.5)	41.1 (41.0)
1948	7.7 (10.8)	17.9 (17.9)	49.0 (34.0)
1949	9.2 (11.7)	16.6 (16.7)	13.3 (32.0)
1950	7.7 (11.6)	14.8 (15.8)	32.2 (29.8)
1951	8.3 (12.5)	13.2 (15.5)	6.0 (29.6)
1952	8.4 (11.3)	13.1 (15.3)	12.3 (27.6)

\* The relative figures for England and Wales.

## DEATHS

The following table is an analysis of the various causes of all deaths which have occurred or are required to be treated as having occurred in the area during the year.

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	3	—	3
Cancer ... ..	21	22	43
Diabetes ... ..	—	2	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis ...	3	20	23
Heart Diseases ... ..	35	30	65
Other circulatory diseases ... ..	4	9	13
Pneumonia ... ..	6	3	9
Bronchitis ... ..	5	2	7
Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer ... ..	6	—	6
Nephritis ... ..	2	—	2
Congenital Debility and Malformation ...	—	1	1
Suicide ... ..	—	3	3
Other defined causes ... ..	13	18	31
	—	—	—
	98	110	208
	—	—	—

Analysis of the deaths from cancer according to site of origin.

Respiratory tract ... ..	13
Alimentary tract and liver ...	23
Breast ... ..	5
Uterus ... ..	1
Others ... ..	1

## Section B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The personal health services are administered by the County Council, the local health authority for these services under the National Health Service Act, 1946. Committees of voluntary workers assist in the local arrangements at the clinics. The Medical Officer of Health of the District is also Divisional Medical Officer, and supervises these services from the Divisional Office at “The Breaks”, French Horn Lane, Hatfield (Telephone: Hatfield 3054).

## CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

### INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

Northcotts, Hatfield	1.45–4.15 p.m.	{ Friday (alternating)
Birchwood Ave., Hatfield	„ „	
Brookmans Park Hotel		
Annexe ... ..	2.30–4.30 p.m.	Monday (1st and 3rd)
*The Cabin, Cuffley ...	2–4 p.m.	Monday (1st and 3rd)
Village Hall, Essendon	2–4 p.m.	Thursday (2nd and 4th)
Iron Hall, Little Heath	2–4 p.m.	Monday (2nd and 4th)
Scout House, North Mymms ... ..	2–4.30 p.m.	Thursday (1st and 3rd)
Welfare Hut, Hockey Lane Estate ...	2–4 p.m.	Wednesday (1st and 3rd)

### NORTHCOTTS, HATFIELD

Ante and Post Natal ...	9.30–11.30 a.m.	Friday (1st and 3rd) (Doctor attends on 1st)
†Ophthalmic ... ..	1.30–3.30 p.m.	Tuesday (2nd, 3rd and 4th)
†Orthoptic ... ..	{ 2–4 p.m. 9.30–12 noon	Tuesday Thursday
†Speech Therapy ...	2–4.30 p.m.	Wednesday
‡Dental ... ..	9.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Tuesday and Wednesday
	2–5 p.m.	Tuesday (1st and 3rd) and Wednesday
†Orthodontic ... ..	a.m.	Wednesday (alternate)
Minor Ailments ...	9.30–10.15 a.m.	Tuesday (2nd and 4th)

\* Ante and Post Natal cases are seen between 1.30 and 2.30 p.m.

† By appointment only.

‡ Temporarily suspended.

Reference should be made to the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer for 1952 for detailed information on the development of these services.

### NURSING SERVICES

In order more adequately to serve the increasing demands of the Hatfield and North Mymms areas, there was some redistribution of the nursing staff during the year with the appointment of two additional Health Visitor School Nurses. Voluntary helpers continue to be of great assistance to the Health Visitors in charge of child welfare centres by attending to non-clinical duties such as the attendance records, and the issuing of special infant foods and vitamin preparations.

### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The routine periodic inspection of children in the three prescribed age groups, i.e. 5 years, 11 years and final year at secondary school was carried out in all maintained schools, with additional groups at eight years



and thirteen years. Attendances at the specialist sessions held at Northcotts Clinic, viz. ophthalmic, orthoptic, speech training and orthopaedic showed a slight increase over the previous year. Orthodontic sessions have continued to be held fortnightly, but owing to staff shortage it has not been possible to resume regular school dental sessions.

#### IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

For the fifth year there has been no case of diphtheria throughout the district, owing to the satisfactory level of immunisation of young children. Credit is due to the parents, teachers, doctors, nurses and voluntary workers supervising the health of children in ensuring this freedom from diphtheria at a cost which is but a small part of the cost of the hospital facilities previously necessary for the isolation and treatment of the disease.

Now that an acceptable whooping cough vaccine of proved efficacy is available, immunisation against whooping cough has been commenced. While it will take some time to assess the probable effects of this immunisation on the incidence of new cases in the area, there is ample evidence to prove that the latest vaccine now recommended either gives complete protection or drastically reduces the severity of the disease.

Vaccination of infants against smallpox, while no longer compulsory under the National Health Service, is strongly recommended for all infants below the age of two years, the best age in a healthy child being at 4–6 months before immunisation.

#### HOME HELP SERVICE

The number of Home Help cases remains fairly constant throughout the district, although the request for help to elderly persons tends to increase. The local organiser, Mrs. L. Pakes, has her office at Northcotts Clinic. (Telephone: Hatfield 2509.)

#### AMBULANCE SERVICE

One ambulance is maintained at the Fire Station in Batterdale, Hatfield, which is manned during the daytime only by a crew of five fully trained ambulance men. Night cover for the district is provided by the larger station at Welwyn Garden City, and other adjoining stations when necessary.

#### HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

This service is organised by the St. John Ambulance Brigade on behalf of the Hertfordshire County Council. It is used to transport patients to and from hospitals and clinics, and is a most valuable supplement to the work of the County Ambulance Service. The local organiser is Mrs. B. K. Phillips-Williams, 43, Endymion Road, Hatfield. (Telephone: Hatfield 3138.)

#### HERTFORDSHIRE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Clerk of the Executive Council (Mr. A. E. Short) has offices at 14 Fore Street, Hertford, and is responsible for the provision of a general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Ignorance of the simple elementary rules of cleanliness, diet and hygiene in the daily life, especially in the upbringing of children, and unfounded superstition and dread of disease are still responsible for much ill health throughout all sections of the community. The work of educating the public in health matters goes on unceasingly through the advice given by each member of the staff of the Health Department, supplemented by special health talks and lectures with the aid of leaflets, posters, films, etc. Special emphasis is given to the clean food campaign by lectures and practical instruction of food retailers, school canteen staffs and housewives.

Section C—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year:

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	69
Measles	...	...	...	...	52
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	14
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	4
Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	7
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—

The notifications of whooping cough and measles rose during the second quarter of the year, although a few cases of each disease occurred scattered throughout the district each month. The cases of measles were uniformly mild in character.

SCARLET FEVER

Notifications of streptococcal infection continue to decline, and the few cases reported were mainly very mild without any serious sequelae.

POLIOMYELITIS

Four cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the period September to November, two being in the town of Hatfield, one at Little Heath, and the other at Welham Green. After full enquiry, no contact between these cases, or with contacts of other cases, could be established.

The case at Little Heath, an adult woman, developed a rapidly ascending paralysis, death occurring within a few hours of onset. The other three cases, a boy of 9 years and two young men had minor muscle weakness which responded well to treatment, leaving few residual signs. Each case was visited, a full enquiry as to possible sources of infection made and close home contacts kept under supervision.

FOOD POISONING

No outbreaks of gastro-enteritis or dysentery occurred during the year. An infant with severe gastro-enteritis at the Hockey Lane Estate during July, which resembled clinically some cases of virus gastro-enteritis in a neighbouring hospital, was admitted for investigation and responded well to treatment.



## TUBERCULOSIS

A careful check has been made upon the Tuberculosis Register for the area at the end of the year, to ensure uniformity between the registers and the records held by the County Medical Officer and Chest Physician. The Tuberculosis statistics for the year are as follows:—

	Male		Female		Total
	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	
On register at 31st December, 1951	83	13	55	19	170
Removals from the register during the year ... ..	22	2	9	1	34
Added to the register during the year	24	—	15	3	42
On register at 31st December, 1952	85	11	61	21	178

The total number of tuberculous persons in the district shows a slight increase during the year, although the actual number of cases added to the register is the same as during the previous year. Five of these forty-two cases were transfers into the district, a proportion which compares very favourably with the figures in neighbouring districts.

The register of notifications of tuberculosis in the district is being maintained in identical manner, although the Public Health Tuberculosis Regulations, 1952, state that the register is no longer a statutory obligation upon the Medical Officer of Health.

The Tuberculosis Clinic at Osterhills Hospital, St. Albans, undertakes the diagnosis, treatment and supervision of all cases in the district, the Chest Physician attending on Thursday for the examination of patients in this district. In each case following diagnosis home visiting is promptly arranged through the Health Visitors attached to the Clinic and a full report of the home circumstances is received by the Medical Officer of Health, who is able to assess the special needs of each case brought on to the register. The necessity for special consideration of the housing needs of tuberculous persons is fully recognised by the Housing Committee of the District Councils, and high priority is given to all such cases represented to the Committee by the Medical Officer of Health. There is close integration of the work of the Chest Clinic and the Tuberculosis Health Visitors with the other social services in the district, especially Home Nursing, Health Visiting and assistance under the Home Help Scheme.

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY

There were no visits of the Mass Radiography Unit to industrial firms in the district during the year.

## Section D—HOUSING

The following figures for the year are provided by the Housing Manager:—

	At 31.12.52
(a) Number of houses owned by the Council	1455
(b) Number of families housed in requisitioned accommodation ... ..	41
(c) Number of families housed in temporary huts ... ..	160



		At 31.12.52
(d)	Number of families housed during year:—	
	(i) New accommodation (temporary) ...	Nil
	(permanent) ...	102
	(ii) Other accommodation (permanent)	42
	(Hockey Lane Estate) ...	50
	(Requisitioned property) ...	6
(e)	Number of applicants on Housing Lists (including applications temporarily suspended owing to lack of residential qualification) ... ..	1083

tion of possible repair or enlargement. The action taken would depend on the progress likely to be made in the East Middlesex Main Drainage Scheme, and it was decided at this stage to proceed with essential repairs.

The construction of the new sewage works at Northaw was completed and put into operation, This unit serves 56 cottages owned by the Council.

## SEWERAGE

The Council decided to consider the construction of a new sewer in Wellfield Road, Hatfield, to serve existing properties and also a proposed school.

New sewers were constructed by the Development Corporation to serve the Roe Green Development Area.

A short length of sewer was constructed at the Ridgeway, Cuffley, to serve new property as well as to allow the connection of existing property previously draining to cesspools.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

The collection of refuse continued to be by direct labour in the parishes of Hatfield and Essendon, and by contract in the parishes of North Mymms and Northaw. A fortnightly service was maintained and there was some improvement in the staffing position.

Disposal, by controlled tipping, was carried out at Cole Green, a site also used by other authorities and undertakings.

A trade refuse service was operated throughout the district by direct labour. This service, although appreciated by those who make use of it, is not in general demand, the majority of traders preferring to make their own arrangements. A compromise measure arranges for traders to use their own transport and labour, but gives them disposal facilities at the tip.

## REFUSE DISPOSAL (BY OTHER AUTHORITIES)

The carriage, by rail, of refuse from North London boroughs was accomplished with a minimum of nuisance. The refuse trains en route for Cole Green were left standing in Hatfield Station only for short periods of time, and the trucks were usually adequately sheeted.

## CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The demand for this service, coupled with an increase in the number of earth pails collected made it necessary to call on outside assistance. No increase in the number of earth pails existing is indicated, but many residents who previously made their own arrangements for disposal no longer do so.

## GULLEY EMPTYING

A system of emptying gulleys in private roads by contract was continued, there being four cleansings during the year.



SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	473
Inspections under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	968
Inspections under Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	371
Inspections under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Enquiries following Infectious Disease (including Food Poisoning)	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Disinfections following Infectious Diasese	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Inspection re Rodent Control (other than by Operative)	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Disinfestations for Bed Bugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	91

HOUSING STATISTICS

*Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year*

1. Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	95
2. Number of dwelling-houses inspected or recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	10

*Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, ETC.

Inspections of Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	177
„ „ Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	141
„ „ Milk Retailers	...	...	...	...	...	17

RODENT CONTROL

Number of infestations found	...	...	...	...	...	174
Number of visits for inspection and treatment	...	...	...	...	...	881
Number of inspections for survey purposes	...	...	...	...	...	71

The whole of the sewerage system was tested twice during the year with treatment where necessary and the sewage disposal works were given regular attention.

FACTORIES ACTS

<i>Inspections</i>		Number in Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories with mechanical power	...	92	52	—
Factories without mechanical power	...	4	1	—
Other premises under the Act	...	—	—	—
		96	53	—

The factories entered in the register are engaged in 47 different industries.



Particulars		Found	Remedied	Referred	
				By H.M. Inspector	To H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness ...	...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
Insufficient...	...	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	...	4	4	1	—
Not separate for sexes	...	—	—	—	—
		5	5	1	—

### OUTWORKERS (PART VIII OF THE ACT)

The number of outworkers was 62, all of whom were engaged in work connected with wearing apparel and there was no instance of work being carried out in unwholesome premises.

### ICE CREAM

A regular programme of ice-cream sampling was again carried out and during the year eighty-three samples were taken covering ice cream made by seven different producers and sold from the premises or vehicles of forty dealers. Four big manufacturers continued to sell their ices in this area but there was a complete change in the smaller producers, five having discontinued and being replaced by three others. Comparison with results for 1951 is therefore only possible in four cases.

The samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton for bacteriological examination and were given provisional grades. The grading system is as follows:—

Provisional Grade	Time taken to reduce methylene blue
1	4½ hours or more
2	2½—4 hours
3	½—2 hours
4	0 hours

*Note:*—Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic qualities of ice cream and to the experimental error of the laboratory test itself, it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results on any given sample. It is suggested that over a six monthly period, 50 per cent. of a vendor's samples should fall into grade 1, 80 per cent. into grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent. into grade 3, and none into grade 4.

### SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The results have been summarised in the Table below under producers and show a steady improvement, the most noticeable feature being the absence of samples in grade 4. The figures for 1951 are given in brackets. Using the provisional grading shown above products of seven manufacturers secured the suggested percentage in grades 1 and 2.

Only one producer failed to reach this standard but a result of 76 per cent. samples in grades 1 and 2 is a great improvement on last year.

Producer	No. of Dealers	No. of Samples	Grade			
			1	2	3	4
A	7 (7)	18 (17)	7 (8)	8 (6)	3 (3)	— (—)
B	15 (14)	30 (30)	17 (19)	12 (6)	1 (4)	— (1)
C	5 (3)	11 (8)	2 (2)	7 (4)	2 (1)	— (1)
D	10 (8)	21 (24)	12 (7)	4 (6)	5 (5)	— (6)
E	1	1	1	—	—	—
F	1	1	—	1	—	—
G	1	1	1	—	—	—
<hr/>						
	40	83	40	32	11	—
<hr/>						

The popularity of “lollies” continues to increase and 10 samples were taken. Of these 9 were satisfactory and 1 showed evidence of contamination. This was followed up and improvement noted.

As most manufacturers of ice cream sell their product over a fairly wide area with constant supervision at all stages, the sampling by this authority is largely a check on the handling methods of the retailers. The decided improvement is therefore all the more encouraging since it shows that dealers have taken to heart the comments and suggestions of the sampling officers.

## HOUSING

A careful watch has been kept for properties becoming vacant which might call for action under the Housing Act, 1936, to prevent the re-occupation of unfit houses. Close liaison with the Housing Department has also been maintained and inspections made of houses from which the tenants have been rehoused. The results are encouraging and have laid the foundations for a more progressive policy of slum clearance and attention to individual unfit houses which will lead to an all-round improvement of the standard of rural housing in the District.

During 1952 consideration was given to 17 houses. Two cottages were found to be dangerous and demolition was secured, while three more are scheduled for demolition. Another cottage was voluntarily demolished by the owner and completely rebuilt while very extensive reconditioning was secured in three other cases. Substantial improvements were made in the remaining eight.

Elsewhere in this report are photographs showing the type of cottage which has been dealt with and the considerable improvement secured.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human food by the Sanitary Inspectors in the course of their inspections of the various food premises in the District.

Butcher's Meat ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	263
Tinned Meat ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	812
Other Tinned Foods	...	...	...	...	...	...	271
Other Foods ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,824
							<hr/>
Total						...	3,170

A number of improvements in food premises have been noted and although progress is slow, there is a noticeable raising of standards generally. The issue of a special notice recommending that dogs be excluded from food premises was well received on the whole. Some shopkeepers do not display them, some display them badly, but many report their favourable effect on the public.

Three licensed premises made substantial alterations and improvements in bars and sanitary accommodation, and several retailers improved their premises and equipment.



HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT  
IMPROVEMENT OF A RURAL COTTAGE



1



1a



HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT  
IMPROVEMENT OF A RURAL COTTAGE



2



2a



WELWYN RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

*Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health and of the  
Sanitary Inspector for 1952*



## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS**

*Medical Officer of Health:*

G. R. TAYLOR, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Sanitary Inspector:*

C. B. BORTHWICK, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., M.R.San.I.,  
Surveyor, Water Engineer and Sanitary Inspector.

*Clerk:*

A. A. W. CALLABY

# **Section A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA**

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,232
Population (mid-year 1952 as estimated by the Registrar-General	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,353
Number of inhabited houses, 31st December, 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,607
Rateable Value of the District, 31st December, 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	£39,174
Net product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£154

## **SOCIAL CONDITIONS**

The district is mainly agricultural in character, the old town of Welwyn, where the Great North Road crosses the river Mimram, being the natural centre of the area. The two parishes of Ayot St. Lawrence and Ayot St. Peter remain sequestered and remote, though only 24 miles north of London. while parts of Digswell, Welwyn and Woolmer Green have developed as residential areas. The District comprises some of the best undulating wooded and agricultural country in Hertfordshire, and fortunately having escaped the urbanising influences of the inter-war years, retains its rural charm.

## **EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR**

				Male	Female	Total
Number of deaths from all causes	...	...		19	20	39
Number of live births	...	{ Legitimate	...	44	40	84
		{ Illegitimate	...	—	1	1
Number of still births	...	{ Legitimate	...	1	1	2
		{ Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Number of deaths of infants under one year	...	{ Legitimate	...	2	1	3
		{ Illegitimate	...	—	—	—

## **INFANT MORTALITY**

Three deaths occurred of infants under one year, the small number rendering statistical comparison of infant death rates with previous years of little significance.

Female	...	...	2 weeks	...	...	Congenital Heart Disease
Male	...	...	2 months	...	...	Pneumonia
Male	...	...	3 months	...	...	Congenital Heart Disease

## **MATERNAL MORTALITY**

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

The following table shows the Death Rates, Birth Rates and Infant Mortality Rates since 1946:—

Year	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1946	12·9 (11·5)*	15·7 (19·1)*	90·9 (43·0)*
1947	10·8 (12·0)	18·8 (20·5)	42·5 (41·0)
1948	9·0 (10·8)	18·1 (17·9)	10·5 (34·0)
1949	12·2 (11·7)	20·1 (16·7)	18·9 (32·0)
1950	10·2 (11·6)	19·6 (15·8)	9·8 (29·8)
1951	13·8 (12·5)	16·2 (15·5)	11·4 (29·6)
1952	7·2 (11·3)	15·8 (15·3)	35·2 (27·6)

\* The relative figures for England and Wales.

## DEATHS

The following table gives an analysis of the various causes of all deaths which have occurred—or are required to be treated as having occurred—in the district during the year:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pneumonia ... ..	2	1	3
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	2	3	5
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis ... ..	3	—	3
Heart diseases ... ..	5	7	12
Other circulatory diseases ... ..	—	3	3
Tuberculosis (Pul. and N/Pul.) ... ..	—	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	1	1	2
Other defined causes ... ..	6	5	11
	—	—	—
	19	20	39
	—	—	—

## Section B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The personal health services throughout the district are administered by the Hertfordshire County Council. The Medical Officer of Health of the District, who is also the Divisional Medical Officer, supervises these services.

### CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

#### WELWYN (THE HILL)

Infant Welfare ... ..	2–4 p.m. ...	Friday
Ante and Post Natal ... ..	9 a.m.–12 noon	Thursday (1st only)
*Dental ... ..	{ 9.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m. Monday 2–5 p.m.	

\* Temporarily suspended.

#### AYOT ST. LAWRENCE

Infant weighing ... ..	2.30–4 p.m. ...	Wednesday (1st only may vary)
------------------------	-----------------	----------------------------------

(Minor ailments are treated daily at 1, The Crescent (Nurse's Residence) between 8 and 9 a.m.)

Attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinic at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn Hill, have been well maintained, with the valuable assistances of the ac-



tive voluntary committee. The dwindling attendance at the Woolmer Green Clinic, largely due to the falling birth rate, led to the suspension of these sessions, as it was easier for the Health Visitor to visit the children in their homes.

#### NURSING SERVICES

Miss I. A. Green, 1, The Crescent, Welwyn, the home nurse/midwife, assisted by Mrs. Womack, carried out the domiciliary nursing, midwifery and health visiting for most of the Rural District, although nurses from Wheathampstead and Welwyn Garden City assist in the outlying parishes. Their work is supervised by the Divisional Nursing Officer.

#### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Children in the three prescribed age groups and the eight-year-old group were examined during the year. A full account of the development of the service is given in the annual report on the School Health of Hertfordshire for the year 1952. The school nurses regularly visit the schools to undertake the treatment of minor ailments, while the specialist diagnostic and treatment sessions at Welwyn Garden City are available as required. The school dental facilities at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn, must unfortunately remain suspended owing to staffing difficulties.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The complete absence of diphtheria from the district during the past five years is due to the co-operation of the parents, doctors, teachers, nurses and voluntary workers in the diphtheria immunisation scheme. In addition to the children who are immunised by their family doctors, sessions are arranged at the schools, or at the Welfare Hut, Welwyn, for large groups, as necessary. Efforts must continue to ensure as high an acceptance rate as possible for this simple and safe preventive measure. In this it is hoped that the recent introduction of whooping cough immunisation will assist in educating the parents, so that there is universal realisation of the importance of immunisation against both diseases.

#### OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

The Welwyn Old People's Club, Hon. Secretary Mrs. G. D. Matthews, continued to expand its activities during the year, the membership being substantially increased. The success of the club reflects great credit upon the small band of voluntary workers who have given much time to the consideration of the special needs of the elderly folk in the district. Ideal premises opened in 1951 in the High Street illustrate what can be done by local effort to form a centre for the old folk where regular meetings and recreation can be arranged and assistance given in their special problems. These facilities are of great value in a rural community, especially when transport and living costs are rising, and yet so much assistance can be obtained through the National Health Service and National Assistance and the Welfare Department of the County Council, provided someone helps the old people to take advantage of the facilities available.

## HOME HELP SERVICE

The local organiser for the Welwyn Rural District is Mrs. E. R. Dawson, The Lawrence Hall, Applecroft Road, Welwyn Garden City (Telephone: Welwyn Garden 4144). The service has been well maintained throughout the year, although at times difficulties have been experienced in finding suitable home helps within the Rural District. While it has usually been possible to cover all demands on the service, there is a need for women in each parish who would be willing to be registered for casual home help work in this essential service.

## HOSPITALS

The district is served by its own hospital, the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, which has 40 beds for general medical and surgical cases. Within reach are the larger hospitals at Hitchin, Hertford and St. Albans, where full diagnostic and specialist facilities are available. The majority of maternity patients needing hospital confinement are admitted to the Welwyn Garden City Maternity Hospital, but maternity beds are available also at Hitchin and St. Albans.

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Hertfordshire Executive Council is responsible for providing a general practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical service in the area. Mr. A. E. Short is the Clerk of the Council, and has offices at 14 Fore Street, Hertford.

## AMBULANCE SERVICE

Since the Hertfordshire County Council assumed control of the Ambulance Brigade, the staff and ambulances attached to Welwyn Garden City Station cover all calls in the Welwyn Rural District, assisted by the Hospital Car Service.

## Section C—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	6
Measles	...	...	...	...	56
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	3
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	Nil

## MEASLES

Notifications rose sharply during November and December, being mostly mild cases scattered throughout the district. All practical steps were taken to limit the spread of infection in the primary schools.



POLIOMYELITIS

Three cases occurred during August in the centre of Welwyn. A young boy was first admitted to hospital where the diagnosis was confirmed, although no definite muscle weakness developed. Within a few days, however, his mother became ill with an acute paralytic infection which rapidly proved fatal. Enquiry into the health of children who had been in contact with the first case revealed a further case in a young boy with definite cerebral symptoms. His condition rapidly improved and no definite muscle weakness occurred during the period of close supervision.

All practical measures were taken to minimise the spread of infection with the willing co-operation of the two families. Throat operations at the Victoria Memorial Hospital and Cottage Hospital, Welwyn Garden City, were suspended for a month, while the management of the Welwyn Cinema assisted by taking steps to prevent close crowding, and to provide extra ventilation of the auditorium between film sessions.

The discovery of the third case illustrates the importance of full enquiry into the health of close contacts of known cases.

TUBERCULOSIS

A complete check was made of all cases of tuberculosis on the registers of the district during the year, in order to bring the records up to date, and as correct as possible. The tuberculosis statistics for the year are as follows:—

	Male		Female		
	Pul.	N/Pul.	Pul.	N/Pul.	Total
On the register at 31st December, 1951	17	1	12	5	35
Removals from the register during the year ... ..	3	1	1	2	7
Added to the register during the year	5	—	2	—	7
On the register at 31st December, 1952	19	—	13	3	35

The total number of tuberculosis cases on the register remains the same as for the previous year.

The Tuberculosis Clinics at Osterhills Hospital, St. Albans and the Lister Hospital, Hitchin, undertake the treatment of cases in Welwyn, and the southern part of the District, while cases from the Mardley Hill/Woolmer Green area attend Letchworth Clinic. Home visiting of all cases is maintained through the Tuberculosis Health Visitors and the Home Nurses, and the special housing needs of each case are fully investigated.

Section D—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) *Public Supply*

A very small dose of chlorine has been continuously applied to all public water supplies throughout the year.

Samples taken from the various storages in turn have been submitted monthly for analysis and/or bacteriological examination. The reports have been consistently satisfactory.

Public supply is available throughout the Parish of Welwyn and the greater part of the Parish of Ayot St. Peter.



The average weekly consumption during the twelve months ended 31st March, 1953, was:—

(i) From Welwyn Garden City Waterworks (including 556,144 galls. per week supplied in bulk to Hertford R.D.C.)	...	...	...	2,079,115 galls.
(ii) From Welwyn Waterworks	...	...	...	306,767 „
(iii) Total from the two sources consumed in Welwyn Rural District	...	...	...	1,797,422 „

(b) *Private Supplies*

The Parish of Ayot St. Lawrence remains, as before, dependent upon private supplies but tenders for the proposed scheme for a Water Tower and a piped water supply had been received and were under consideration at the close of the year. Most of the fittings and some of the steel required had been delivered and it is understood that pipes are ready for delivery as soon as the Contractor is ready to start work.

## 2. DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The number of cesspools or sewage tanks emptied by the Council's Cesspool Emptier during the year was 740 (662 loads, average .90 loads per emptying).

In addition, the sewage tank at Oaklands, for which the Council is responsible, was emptied 70 times (422 loads, average 6.02 loads per emptying), and in addition the undermentioned Council properties were emptied:

Council Offices (sewage tank)	...	...	...	1 time	2 loads
Woolmer Green Sewage Pumping Station (screening chamber)	...	...	...	4 times	2 „
Burnham Green Cottages (sewage tank)	...	...	...	3 „	3 „
Station Road Cottages (sewage tank)	...	...	...	4 „	4 „
Danesbury Camp (sewage tank)...	...	...	...	3 „	1½ „
Digswell Camp (sewage tank)	...	...	...	2 „	1⅙ „

The average daily flow at Welwyn Sewage Disposal Works was 104,368 gallons.

The lowest daily flow was 76,000 gallons on 27th July, 1952, on which day there was no rain. The highest daily flow was 262,000 gallons on the 30th September, 1952, on which day there was a rainfall of 1.4 inches.

A scheme of main sewerage for the Mardley Hill, Oaklands, Canonsfield and Danesbury area is still under consideration by the Ministry of Health. The intention was to abandon the Sewage Disposal Works at Woolmer Green and lay a Trunk Sewer to bring all sewage down to the works at Welwyn which were to be enlarged to deal with it. The Minister has intimated that he will not agree to the enlargement of the Sewage Disposal Works but will require the Council to take advantage of the main sewer proposed to be laid down the Mimram Valley in connection with the Lee Valley Main Sewerage Scheme, for the disposal of all the sewage from the Welwyn Rural District and to abandon the existing Disposal Works at Welwyn. The Council are still awaiting information as to the financial implications of such an arrangement.

### 3. RAINFALL

The total rainfall recorded at Welwyn Sewage Disposal Works during the year was 27·780 inches.

The average rainfall for the five years 1948-1952 was 26·639 inches.

During 1952 there was a measurable fall of rain on 175 separate days, the heaviest fall being 1·40 inches on the 30th September, 1952. The wettest month was August with 4·610 inches of rain and the driest month was February with 0·600 inches of rain.

### 4. HOUSE REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION

A house-to-house weekly collection of house refuse and salvage was carried out by direct labour throughout the year.

The quantity of salvage of various types which was sold during the year ended 31st March, 1953, was 48 tons 17 cwts. 1 qr. 12 lbs., and the payment received for this was £289 14s. 2d.

The grand total of salvage disposed of since a separate collection of salvage was started in March, 1940, is 1207 tons 10 cwts. 3 qrs. 13 lbs. and this has been sold for £5,238 3s. 8d.

In the early part of the year the market for waste paper suddenly collapsed. Since June, paper has been sold for the nominal figure of £1 per ton for mixed paper and £2 per ton for newsprint. Even though there is no appreciable income, I am of the opinion that this is the better way of disposing of waste paper rather than allow it to be mixed with refuse which would probably increase the work of collection and would create difficulties at the tip.

### 5. SANITARY INSPECTIONS AND VISITS FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES

Premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	170

The purpose of these visits was as follows:—

	Premises	Visits
Housing defects	27	33
Cesspools and drains	13	20
Restaurants	1	3
Food	7	13
Disinfections following infectious disease	11	11
Keeping of animals	2	2
Bake houses	—	—
Smoke and fumes	1	1
Dirty premises	2	2
Manure and other deposits	—	—
Miscellaneous	32	44
Rodent Control	27	28
Factories	7	10
Bed Bugs	2	3
	<hr/> 132	<hr/> 170



The cases of infectious disease were as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

## 6. MOVABLE DWELLINGS—PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 269.

Thirteen licences to station caravans on various sites were operative during the year. It is the Council's custom to issue such licences for twelve months at a time only.

## 7. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS, ETC.

Two reports of bed bugs in dwellings were received but in only one case were they found to exist. This dwelling was suitably treated and the trouble has not occurred again.

## 8. HOUSING

(i) *New Houses.* Fourteen new houses were completed and eight additional units of accommodation provided in other ways by private enterprise; 17 houses and 20 flats were completed by the Council, making a total of 59 additional separate dwellings during the year.

(ii) *Council's Housing Programme.* During the year contracts for the erection of sixty-six houses at Hawbush Common were made and at the close of the year fifty-three houses were under construction.

(iii) *Erection of Houses by Private Enterprise.* During the year the Council issued thirty-three building licences for the erection of dwellings by private persons, three of which were subsequently returned, and of these one was transferred from the Hornsey Borough.

(iv) *Requisitioned Property.* At the close of the year the Council held two dwellings under requisition and two separate families and/or tenants living alone were housed therein.

(v) *Hutted Camps.* Twenty-five families are still housed in ex-service huts (originally occupied by squatters) in two Camps, viz., 19 at Danesbury Park and 6 at Digswell. The Council has decided not to re-let the huts at Danesbury Park when present occupiers leave. Seven are now empty and these will be sold and removed as soon as possible.

## 9. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Food as detailed below was inspected and certified unfit for human consumption and either destroyed, disposed of as pig food or returned to the suppliers for salvage. Certificates were issued in all cases to the persons by whom the food was held at the time of inspection, in accordance with the emergency arrangements agreed with the Ministry of Food and Ministry of Health.



(i) Food in tins or other containers

Description					No. of Containers	Weight		
						cwts.	lbs.	ozs.
Meat	...	...	...	...	10	—	51	9
Milk	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	14
Preserves	...	...	...	...	2	—	3	0
Soup	...	...	...	...	3	—	2	15½
Fish, misc.	...	...	...	...	15	—	20	14
					—			
					31	—	79	4½
					—			

(ii) Loose Foods

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	108	0
Fish...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	60	0
					Total	...	1	56	0

Total weight of all foods condemned: 2 cwts. 23 lbs. 4½ ozs.

“Clean Food” Byelaws. In the course of inspections made during the year the attention of occupiers of food shops has been drawn to any failures to comply with Byelaw requirements and in each case compliance has been secured on informal request.

Printed notices bearing a request that no dogs be allowed to enter food shops have, at the suggestion of the Ministry of Health been issued for display in all food shops in the district.

10. RODENT CONTROL AND PEST DESTRUCTION

In order to carry out their duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Council have entered into an agreement with Hitchin Rural and Royston Urban District Councils for the operation of a joint scheme.

The Scheme has worked smoothly and satisfactorily throughout the year and the following tables give a record of work done in Welwyn Rural District during the year.

Number of hours worked						No. of Rats and/or Mice picked up	
Sewers	Refuse Tips etc.	Private dwellings	Business dwellings	Block Agricultural Land	Total	R.	M.
16½	103	147¼	26	13¾	306½	467	37







